



**Minutes of Meeting**  
**CITIZENS' EFFICIENCY COMMISSION**  
**April 8, 2015**

**ATTENDANCE**

**Citizens' Efficiency Commissioners**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Larry Bomke	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Robert Plunk
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Josh Collins	<input type="checkbox"/>	J.D. Sudeth
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	James Donelan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Joan Walters
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Karen Hasara	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Robert Wesley
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jackie Newman		

**Others:**

Norm Sims – SSCRPC

Gail Weiskopf- SSCRPC

Christie Crites – Crawford, Murphy & Tilly, Inc.

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Joan Walters called the meeting of the Citizens' Efficiency Commission to order.

**II. ROLL CALL AND APPROVAL OF ABSENCES**

Chair Walters announced that commissioner J.D. Sudeth would not in attendance for the meeting.

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chair Walters asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the March 11, 2015, regular meeting. Mr. Robert Wesley moved to approve the minutes. Mr. Josh Collins seconded the motion, and the amended minutes were approved.

**IV. INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chair Walters asked the guests to introduce themselves. Ms. Christie Crites, of a local engineering firm Crawford, Murphy, & Tilly.

**V. REVIEW OF ELECTION RESULTS**

Chair Walters and the commissioners congratulated Mr. Jim Donelan for his recent election as the Alderman for Ward 9. Walters reviewed the guidelines of the CEC to make a replacement for Mr. Donelan. Walters asks for recommendations of a replacement keeping in mind the new elected officials bring new appointed administration. Mike Murphy who sat on the first CEC commission and Jerry Crabtree were named as possible replacements. The group agreed to share with Chair Walters through email additional recommendations for replacement for Jim Donelan. Chair Walters stated the swearing in for the new City officials would be a week after the Lincoln Funeral Re-enactment, so there would be a smooth transition for the event. Chair Walters reviewed the consolidated election. The group agreed they should contact the Mayor



Elect Langfelder and invite him to the RLC Regional Leadership Council meeting as well a meeting of the CEC. Mayor Brian Cuffle won a close race for Spaulding and is also the Chairman of RLC. Mayor Trevor Clatfelter in Sherman won. The CEC went through the list of elected officials for the city/villages of Sangamon County. The only new one was Jill Egizii for Leland Grove. Chair Walters suggested contacting her and familiarizing her with the CEC and the RLC.

## **VI. GOVERNOR RAUNER TASK FORCE DISCUSSION –KAREN HASARA**

Hon. Karen Hasara reported the Local Government Consolidation & Unfunded Mandates Task Force has held three meetings which consisted of interesting presentations. The Task Force will be presenting legislation at the next meeting, Monday, April 13, which will be held in Carbondale. The most recent meeting held in Bloomington discussed unfunded mandates. The April 8<sup>th</sup> meeting hosted DuPage County Board Chair Dan Cronin who provided a long presentation about DuPage consolidation efforts. There was a discussion regarding legislation that allowed DuPage County to eliminate local governments. The legislation may allow additional counties similar authority. Chair Cronin offered that DuPage has saved over one hundred million dollars within ten years. He disclosed a history of the corruption and the waste of monies that was taking place when he was appointed chairman of the County Board. Hasara indicated she was unaware of such corruption. She will share materials with the CEC as she receives them. Lake County was consolidating the elevators inspections. Hasara wondered how the inspections of the elevators were handled in Sangamon County.

Hasara presented an article from the ICYMI: The Bond Buyer where Moody's Investor Service was positive about Gov. Rauner's Local Government Consolidation Task Force and its review of unfunded mandates.

The Task Force will meet in Springfield at the Stratton Building, Wednesday, April 22, 2014 from 4:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M. The CEC is on the schedule to make a 15 minute presentation and answer questions.

Mr. Norm Sims stated the Association of Government Accountants will be meeting at Sangamo Club at noon to 1:00 P.M. on April 15th. Mr. Sims is going but will be late; they wanted someone other than staff to report where things are.

## **VII. DISCUSSION OF TASKFORCE WORK PLANS**

### **A. Regional Leadership Council as Strategic Partner - Higher Ed Institutions as Strategic Partner – Robert Plunk & Jackie Newman**

Mr. Robert Plunk reported the task force will report at the May meeting on review of the original work plan. The Regional Leadership Council will be meeting Wednesday, April 29th, 2015 in the County Board Chambers.

Chair Walters said the CEC would like to understand:

- How the RLC's attendance could improve
- How RLC's areas of cooperation might be made more evident so that there are more opportunities for leaders to identify areas in which they need assistance.



### **Sewer Transfer Study - Chair Walters & Jim Donelan**

Mr. Donelan reported everyone should have received the sewer study work plan by email. The task force noted 5 tasks they anticipate working on.

Mr. Donelan stated after the inauguration of the new mayor of Springfield the task force will visit with him and the Director of Public Works to acquaint them with the CEC work, including RLC, and this project in particular.

The task force will be in contact with Rochester Councilman Mr. Joe Hill, along with the Mayor Armstrong of the Village of Rochester. Rochester is currently in the process of turning over its sewers to the Springfield Metro Sanitary District. Discussion will consist of the reasons, the financial, and the approximate timetable it will take to complete.

Mr. Donelan noted the task force will be reaching out to and visiting other Illinois cities of similar size with similar concerns (including storm water) over the summer months. These cities include Decatur, Bloomington/Normal, and a re-visit to Peoria. Chair Walters reported that Peoria has received an Innovation Grant to hire staff to implement their sewer plan. The CEC plans to meet with the Peoria task force to identify opportunities for a similar grant for Springfield.

The task force will be discussing SMSD and DPW about other local and/or national cities engaging in sewer studies such as this.

Once the task force has completed the previous tasks, they will re-evaluate and map out a plan. They agreed there are a lot of unknowns related to the sewer project as Chair Walters noted the NE Sewer study being conducted by CMT and looked forward to a briefing from CMT's Christie Crites.

### **B. Regional Policing Study - Karen Hasara & Sen. Larry Bomke**

Hon. Karen Hasara referred to the handout entitled Law Enforcement Resource Sharing IACP Proposal. She indicated the proposals similarities to the CEC recommendations regarding better LE service for Sangamon County citizens. The proposal encompasses the City, the County and all the municipalities' that have police departments. The plan tends to show how to delivery services without consolidation and the cost is approx \$45,000. Timeframe for completing this would be 60-90 days. This group has done a similar study if Lakewood County in Colorado. The CEC is aware that there will be obstacles to complete this project. There was discussion which addresses sharing this with the RLC and perhaps they would want to contribute to the process. After discussion the CEC decided to wait until they become more familiar with the proposal. The CEC needs to work out how it would be funded and who is going to manage it. The CEC agreed it would be a good topic for a future RLC meeting once they know more details.

### **C. Developing Legislative Linkages - Karen Hasara & Sen. Larry Bomke**

Sen. Larry Bomke talked about the legislation to allow communities to declare bankruptcy; he does not anticipate this legislation becoming law.

He also spoke about the bill the CEC was promoting eliminating local government notices required for print media, it failed. Sen. Bomke noted one of the good thoughts that came from the



prior commission; many of the ideas have been put before the General Assembly only to fail. Some fail numerous times that does not mean you should quit trying.

Hon. Hasara reported a Senate Bill to enhance firefighter pension Fund is up for second reading next week. It provides a firefighter shall be considered on duty and engaged in an active duty while on any assignment approved by the Chief of the Fire Department. This means if a fireman is in training or a doing duty other than firefighting such as cooking meals and the fireman gets hurt he/she would be eligible for additional financial relief. The bill would amend the Illinois State Mandates Act to require the implementation without reimbursement effectively immediately.

Hon. Hasara stated that the Lt. Gov. Task force is tracking all of the legislation for any and all bills concerning tax cuts, pension issues, and tax deductions. It is helpful that the task force will be well informed.

Mr. Plunk inquired about Governor Rauner Executive Order 15-15. Chair Walters identified this as the Executive Order that initiated consolidation of local governments Task Force.

#### **D. Developing Linkages with Townships - Jim Donelan & J.D. Sudeth**

Mr. Donelan stated that Mr. J.D. Sudeth and he had reported attending the recent Sangamon County Township Officials Association's meeting. The task force will be reaching out to them again and attending more meetings. Mr. Donelan provided the following information from questions presented in discussion: 1) the association meets quarterly, 2) there are 26 Townships in Sangamon County, 3) their attendance varies with the calendar, there has been 12-15 to a significant amount in attendance, and 4) leadership consists of Marty Mau and Richard Treat.

#### **Developing Linkages with Fire/EMS – Robert Plunk & Robert Wesley**

Mr. Plunk reported the task force is working with the sub-committee of the Regional Leadership Council, so far, they have held three meetings, April 1, 2015 being the most recent. The fire chief from Chatham offered to host the next meeting. They are addressing the CEC's Fire and EMS recommendations. The recommendations for Pass-through Districts and Foreign Fire Insurance are not part of the focus; however there is and should be an opportunity to get the FPD trustees involved in these areas.

Mr. Plunk reported the April 1, 2015, meeting was productive. He said Mr. Wesley is not the Chairman but he has the ability to get people to talk and come around to a different way of thinking. Currently the task force is creating a plan and is attempting to come up with questions to send to Fire Chiefs and then following up with the FPD Trustees. So far they have covered small amount of information which includes volunteerism and training. The progress is going to be a very slow perhaps two years. The task force is supporting what is going on with the sub-committee and will change their approach if need be.

Mr. Wesley stated that one thing that did happen at the last meeting was the perennial complaint of the fire chiefs surfaced again which is that the FPD Board Members don't take advantage of available training. Mr. Wesley suggested having the RLC write a letter to the County Board President saying this has got to stop. Of course the County Board could do this because it is the appointing authority for many of the fire districts, so they could say we are not going to appoint you if you do not take the training. County Board Member, Jim Good, said they would take it up.



Mr. Wesley explained the frustration in getting the Fire Chiefs to answer the question to identify standards for training. The slow process is because the chiefs are unwilling to address this.

The suburban chiefs are willing to criticize the rural programs, but they will not put information down on paper that could be measured, counted or assessed. Chief Kenneth Fustin has been very useful with these discussions; he looks at training in a very different way. He wants to consider a tiered approach a person who goes into structural fires needs extensive training whereas a person who wants to drive the machine or stay at the firehouse needs different levels of training. Currently all volunteers are required to do all the training of a Certified Fire Fighter: therefore, they lose volunteers due to the intensity of the training. The Suburban Chiefs' expressed opposition to this approach as they felt it would down-grade the quality and importance of the Certified Fire Fighter. Mr. Wesley's belief is it is maximizing quality if you can get them in this mode. This requires action in the State Fire Marshall Office and takes everyone to be open to this process. Chief Fustin started out as a volunteer, he comes to every meeting and he is taking a sensible approach. Mr. Wesley agrees this is going to be a slow process. The RLC has been taking an interest in establishing the Fire service task force and this is how the CEC decided to approach the issue as they embarked upon the effort. The CEC hoped to empower the RLC. The RLC will progress at a pace, *their* pace. The CEC at some point will have to decide if their pace and direction is one the CEC can ultimately support. The commission's appointees will have to decide in each of the separate tasks if what the CEC is doing and striving for is going to be worth the time and effort. Mr. Wesley is unsure that the task force can decide this yet.

Senator Bomke asks for clarification, "Did I understand correctly that the chiefs are not pushing the training simply because they don't have the volunteers that want to go through that arduous training or the time to do it is that what I am hearing?"

Mr. Wesley replied what the chiefs have indicated is that if you back off from training every volunteer to the highest level, you are backing off standards. The recommendation under consideration is to allow for a tiered approach to meet actual demands of the fire calls which would certainly be different levels of training.

Senator Bomke asks in the rural vs. suburban is it the rural areas that cannot get the volunteers to go through the training.

Mr. Wesley reiterated the impression given by the Fire Chiefs of the problem for both rural and suburban FPD is two different things: 1) keeping volunteers and 2) volunteers availability during the day. This may be the reason adolescents are volunteering, but since it is hard to tell if this is fact or illustration the RLC as a whole does not know.

Fustin is trying for more specialization within the training of volunteers. The group is a group of strangers except for the Fire Chiefs know one another they work together. We are still trying to figure it out, it is tough to get a straight answer, part of it is real, and part of it is there is confusion about exactly what the standards are. One thing that was learned is the only government agency that can punish a fire department is the Department of Labor, they can fine them. No one can shut a Fire Department down. Even training standards are recommended, that is what we are learning about this, the Fire Marshall's Office is not an authority it is more of a consultant. There is an indirect influence that is more effective discipline which comes from the insurance industry the insurance carrier how they rate the department. The Fire Protection District appoints the fire chief, they can fire the chief, they collect taxes, and they disperse funds. Springfield is a



municipality. That is a reason to go to County Board to set up criteria for appointments because once they are appointed by the Sangamon County Board they are free of most any influence.

### **Create Network of Business Leaders - J.D. Sudeth & Josh Collins**

Mr. Collins presented an annual report from The Greater Springfield Chamber Commerce for 2014 Business Visitation Program. In early 2014, Q5 continued an initiative aimed at enhancing relationships with Springfield's employers through a revitalized business visitation program. The objective of the program is to improve business retention and expansion efforts by offering local business leaders a platform to vocalize the challenges facing their businesses and their perception of the Springfield economy. Each visit consisted of 30 – 60 minutes interview structured around a comprehensive software-driven BRE survey called Synchronistic. The confidential survey gauges business' perceptions using 42 questions on topics ranging from Community Services and Infrastructure to Market Share and Workforce. Mr. Collins introduced a survey that produced by the UIS Survey Research Office entitled Economic Outlook Survey. For the most part the survey remains the same for comparison of year to year. There is one segment allowed each time for different questions. Mr. Collins asked the CEC if they would be interested in taking advantage of this opportunity in the fall. Questions would need to be prepared by August. Questions would be presented to business in Sangamon County.

After discussion of the opportunity; the CEC is planning on coming up with some questions to participate in the survey with UIS.

## **VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Sims stated that the SSCRPC's Study of Economic Growth Trends in the Region, Finding Weakness was recently released. This study of the metro area's ability to bounce back after economic downturns such as the Great Recession, it has now completed an extensive review of the local economy, looking at such factors as population, personal wealth, job, and business earnings growth. It is the first such review to look at how both long and short-term trends are affecting residents and businesses in the region, largely assessing economic growth from 1970 to 2013.

Sims noted that some projects will be held up due to the Governor placing contracts signed after November 1, 2014 on hold. A contract between the SSCRPC and the Illinois Department of Transportation had been signed by the SSCRPC regarding CRPF funding in the amount of approximately \$110,000, but the contract was not signed by IDOT until after November 1.

Sims reported that the Federal Transportation Bill is still in question. The SSCRPC has been notified by the State to prepare a work program regarding transportation planning activities to plan for 12 months with only 8 months of funding at the present time.

## **IX. OTHER SPECIAL REPORTS**

RPC Staff reported the Regional Leadership Council will be held Wednesday, April 29th, 2015 at 5:30 P.M. in the County Board room.





The next CEC meeting date will be Wednesday, May 13, 2015, at 3:00 P.M. The meeting will be held in Room 212 of the Regional Planning Commission.

**X. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Chair Walters asked if there were any public comments.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Walters asked if there were any further comments. There being none, she called for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Wesley motioned to adjourn. Ms. Jackie Newman seconded the motion. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gail Weiskopf  
Acting as Recording Secretary